AMSAT SATELLITE REPORT

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Editor: Vern Riportella, WA2LQQ
Assoc. Editor: Bob Nickels, KE0T
Managing Editor: Bob Myers, W1XT

Dayton WrapUp

In communicating the scope of the annual happening that is Dayton in April, more than the flavor is lost. The Hamvention has to be *experienced* to be understood at the gut level where its impact seems most real. Statistics plainly do not convey what Dayton is to the Ham world. How does one convey in words what Carnival is to Rio or Mardi Gras to New Orleans?? No way, Jose!

Nevertheless, the raw numbers *can* impress if put in a meaningful context. For example, "25,000 hams were there." So what? But, if you reflect that those 25,000 are more Hams than live in most of the nations of the world, *then* the gravity of Dayton is more adequately conveyed.

Further what really can be conveyed of the impression of fully 20 acres of "junque" assembled before one? It might as well be 20-million metric tons. It is just beyond reckoning. Thus, it is reckoning's default that induces Dayton's likening to a great marketplace such as the Casbah must have been a millenium ago. Come to think of it, most of the equipment appeared as though it had been on the losing side during the Crusades. What seem to be great burial mounds of antiquity dwarf the casual stroller. Do they contain untold treasures or merely the skeleton of a defunct "king of the band" amplifier? At this plane, one easily apprehends the TVRO dishes as ceremonial alabaster-lined caldrons sent by a Prince of the Nile. See, just now, how they stand facing the heavens. When the mythical great bird returns to bathe in the great caldron it will surely mark the dynasty's end, or so the myth might go. Elsewhere, in the main arena, one is equally perplexed to describe such spectacle in mere rational terms. Far easier to imagine this a great circus. The towering spire of aluminum tubing is the scaffold on which the Great Kuschkrafto Brothers trapeze act prevails. Is the ringmaster totally lost in the troupe? Well, at least the clowns are not. Clowns are everywhere. But it is not at all clear to us (and likely less clear to them) where the clowns end and audience begins. Does it not strike you rather as a three dimensional, animated Escher woodcut, so fascinating is this transmutation.

Yes, a circus it *is* certainly. If the spirit of P.T. Barnum is unchained and lurks about, I suspect April in Dayton is on his itinerary. Although Dayton is behind us another year and to recall the bazaar in all its manifest complexity is not possible, what really remains is the gut impression. So while the memory fades, the smell of peanuts lingers on. Ol' P.T. would approve.—*WA2LQQ*

K1HTV, left, presents a "Hams In Space" T-shirt to Aziz Ziat El Turque (pronounced El Tur-kee), Grand Vizar of Southern Dayton. At the moment this picture was shot, the Grand Vizar was reaching for his ceremonial scimitar, which was, unfortunately for El Turque, also holding up his shorts.

Is this the ultimate "ham in space"? Certainly the ultimate hog, the Arkansas University Razorback Jim Skoog, WD0EEL, wears does not appear to be a rag-chewing ham. Seems this hog wants something a bit more substantial, say a leg, to chew on! Come to think of it, is the ol' razorback just sitting on Jim's head or trying to *hatch* it?!

A fascinating collection indeed seen here. Left to right are Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, AMRAD President, Joe Schroeder, W9JUV, Editor of *HR Report*, XYL of W4RI, Tom Clark, W3IWI, AMSAT President, and Hank Magnuski, KA6M, newly appointed AMICON Systems Engineer and President of Gamma-Tech.

New Frequency Scheme Aired

Returning from England this past week, AMSAT's Vice President for Engineering, Jan King, W3GEY, reports that a review of the proposed frequencies to be employed on the Phase IIIB and C satellites has yielded a more comprehensive list than the previous proposals. The reevaluation was undertaken at the suggestion of Dr. Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, President of AMSAT DL during his recent visit to the U.S. The new plan is shown in the box below. It should be emphasized that these frequencies are current working models only and are subject to modification as required. Nevertheless, the overall scheme seems well-considered and at worst, only minor "tweaking" may be expected on the numbers shown. Frequency Coordinator John Henry, VE2VQ, President of AMSAT Canada will be reviewing the overall proposal. AMSAT Canada is collaborating on SYNCART with Project OSCAR. SYNCART is to be the world's first geosynchronous amateur radio transponder and is slated for launch in the 83-84 time frame and is thus an integral part of overall frequency planning.

Future Satellite Frequency Plan
As of 5 May 1981

Phase IIIB
Mode B

Uplink	435.175 - 435.025
Downlink	145.825 - 145.975
EB	145.990
GB	145.8125

Mode 'X'*

Uplink	1269.85 - 1269.05
Downlink	436.15 - 436.95
EB	436.02
GB	436.04

Phase IIIC
Mode B

Uplink	435.575 - 435.425
Downlink	145.825 - 145.975
EB	145.990
GB	145.8125

Mode 'X'*

Uplink	1268.85 - 1268.05
Downlink	437.15 - 437.95
EB	437.02
GB	437.04

SYNCART

Uplink	1267.95 - 1267.75
Downlink	435.60 - 435.80

Expansion

Uplink	1267.75 - 1267.00
Downlink	435.80 - 436.00

*Mode designation to be determined by AMSAT DL
Notes:
1. Unused frequencies function as guard bands or future expansion zones.

New/Interesting DX

Reported by G3IOR: TL8CN (A/cw & ssb); C5AAC (B/ssb); S9SU (B/ssb). Reported by PAØDLO: GI5SJ (B/cw); GI8YDZ (B/ssb); GJ8KNV (B/ssb); UL7DD (B/cw); UC2ABN (B); EA8SC (A). Thanks to both reporters. More inputs are solicited.

OSCAR Competition Spurred

Far reaching discussions within AMSAT and with other interested parties have revealed a consensus that the time may be right to stimulate activity on the OSCAR satellites with a program of well-disciplined competitions. ARRL is known to be dusting off some of the awards programs it has had in the past for OSCAR satellite communications. AMSAT has a series of awards in its quiver as well.

What's new, however, is a suggestion to sponsor a contest late this summer. The objective of the contest to be sponsored by AMSAT would be bifold: a) To stimulate membership and b) To promote activity and interest in using the Phase II satellites now in operation.

AMSAT officials pointed to a mandate from the Board of Directors to wield the competition tool well to the organization's benefit. For that reason the contest would be structured so as to promote membership and activity with the least disruption to non-participants and lowest possible risk to the spacecraft, said these officials.

Current thinking is focused on late summer, with two weekends included such as 12-13 and 19-20 Sept. The contest, if authorized, would probably be constrained to those modes where traffic is the lowest, i.e., modes A and J. As is done with the 10-10 International Contest, exchanges would be merely AMSAT member number with perhaps a signal report appended. Scoring would be structured to strongly favor low power emissions on the uplink. Prizes would include engraved plaques, T-shirts, callsign badges, arm patches and certificates.

If you have some ideas which you would like considered for the proposed contest, write HQ AMSAT, P.O. Box 27, Washington, D.C. 20044. Be sure to mark your envelope "Contest."

T-Shirt Limerick Contest

An AMSAT "Hams In Space" T-shirt will be given to the three individuals submitting the cleverest limerick which promotes the T-shirt campaign. For example:

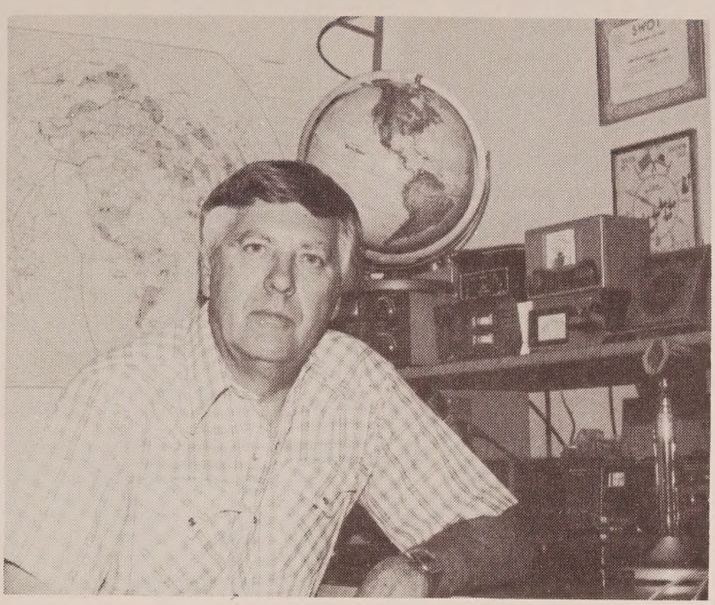
There once was a ham from D.C.
With T-Shirts he went on T.V.
"For a ten-buck donation
You'll be a sensation.
And AMSAT can build you Phase Three."

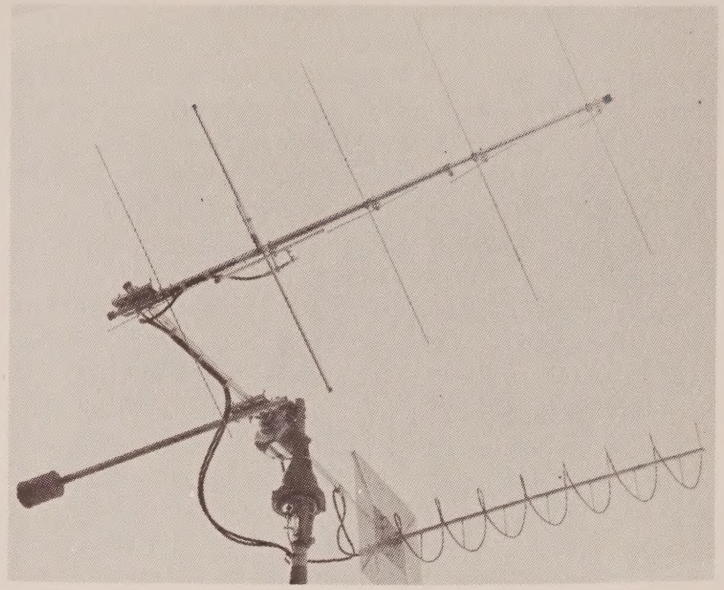
That's what a limerick is. Everybody's heard a few. Most aren't publishable. (A pity.) Here's a starter someone might like to finish.

There once was a ham from New York
With T-Shirts that touted some pork.
etc.

Well, I'm sure you've got the idea. Here's how to enter the contest. Send your entry no later than 30 June 1981 to: T-Shirt Contest, c/o WA2LQQ, P.O. Box 177, Warwick, NY 10990.

Winners will be announced here and in all the other AMSAT media beginning 5 July 1981. Decisions of the judges is final. Enter as many times as you care to. Criteria for judging are originality, humor, and promotional value. All entries become the property of AMSAT and cannot be returned.





AMSAT Satellite Report's Spotlight On W7US

This week's spotlight falls on an individual who is heard quite frequently when OSCAR is visible over the southwest U.S. His solid signal from Tucson, Arizona is heard to call: "Double-you seven Uncle Sam." Though Bill Allen may not be present on every single pass, his long list of friends who know Bill from the birds will attest that he certainly is no stranger to any mode. "Bill", they would surely add, "is the perfect admixture of operator and experimenter/tinkerer." What's especially fortunate is that many of us have directly benefited from Bill's handiwork.

There are few antennas in use with OSCAR so widely known and often imitated as the "W7US helix". First described in an issue of the old quarterly "AMSAT Newsletter", the basic design for the 6-turn helical antenna was determined by "trial and error" according to Bill. And, as often is the case with enterprise, a specific need mothered Bill's concoction too. As most newcomers to Mode J soon discover, there are some efforts required of the would-be J-user which are beyond those required of the B-user. So Bill set to work shortly after AO-8 launch to improve his Mode J receive capability. His search soon led him to an article on helices in a back issue of *QST*. That was his point of departure. With a well-rounded background in mobile communications and microwave acquired during his career with an electric utility, Bill began experimenting with the fascinating, circularly polarized, helix. Today, as a result of Bill's work, literally dozens of stations around the OSCAR-world use the W7US version. Now, not one to let transponder technology pass him by, Bill is looking towards the anticipated L-transponder, 23 cm uplink with, no doubt, some ideas of how a small array of helices might be configured. He indicates that, for the present, he's leaning towards non-conductive (wood or fiberglass) as a suitable boom material on 23 cm. Results to this point have been encouraging and when the product of Bill's latest endeavor is polished to his standards, we're hopeful that Bill will again grace our pages with the details.

As regards the operator, W7US, here also the tale is told in terms of the technical performance of Bill's first-rate station. For example, due to the effectiveness of his helix, W7US typically runs less than 10 watts for an S9 downlink on J. Saving the 50 watt amplifier for the low elevation, DX passes, the combination works well as evidenced by his having logged 25 countries as well as OSCAR WAS, among other awards of note. Bill is particularly proud of having been one of the first stations to have worked through the Russian RS-1 and 2 birds. The other nice thing about W7US is that he's versatile. That means you can also find Bill on hf beginning with "Top Band", 160 meters. A look at his well-organized shack reveals the touch of pride which Bill evidences in so many other things he does.

And it is with pride that we focus on AMSAT's new Area Coordinator for Arizona, W7US. There are few satellite users who can exceed the enthusiasm and spirit of W7US, the Helix Guru from the Grand Canyon State.

Hamfest Texas Style

Though J.R. Ewing likely will not be at this Dallas Hamfest called HAM-COM, thousands of other Texans and mid-westerners are expected this June 6th and 7th. Of special interest to AMSAT folks will be a live OSCAR demo by Russ Brownlow, WB5RBM, who is President of the Dallas Amateur Radio Club. On Sunday morning (June 7), Russ will be joined by Doug Loughmiller, KO5I, President of the Red River Valley Amateur Radio Club of Paris (Texas), in an AMSAT Satellite forum. KO5I is the new Area Coordinator for North Texas. Also featured at the forum will be Oklahoma Area Coordinator Larry Papke, WB5MPU, and Bill Clepper, W3HV, AMSAT-OSCAR 8 ground command station. Space for the AMSAT booth in the commercial area was donated by HAM-COM and the staff at the booth will be seeking to enlist new members and to clad them in the new "Hams In Space" T-shirts and AMSAT callsign badges. Look for a follow-up report on this activity in a future issue of *ASR*. Meanwhile, for further info, contact KO5I.

Nominations Sought

AMSAT President Tom Clark, W3IWI, has announced that nominations for the position of Director are now in order. AMSAT Directors are elected by the membership for a two year term. The Directors have overall responsibility for determining organizational goals and formulation of policy to meet those goals.

Any five current annual or life members may nominate an AMSAT member. A member society likewise can nominate. This year there are four (of the seven) seats to be filled. Directors whose seats are up include K1HTV, W3GEY, W6SP and VE2VQ. The nominating petitions should be mailed to AMSAT HQ, P.O. Box 27, Washington, D.C. 20044 before 15 June 1981. Nominee's biographies must be included with the petition. Ballots will be mailed under separate cover to all current members. Ballots will be counted and the elected Directors seated at the Annual Meeting to be held 17 October 1981 at the Goddard Employees Recreation Center, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland.

It was hoped, said W3IWI, that the Bylaws could be modified to increase the number of Directors to nine or eleven to better reflect the international nature of the organization by providing additional seats for non-U.S. Directors. However, unforeseen procedural complications have delayed this action.

A nominating committee is now being constituted, according to W3IWI. It shall be this committee's task to present a slate of candidates it recommends to the members.

Special Commemoration Slated

A very special on-the-air activity has been set for this coming weekend, May 23-24. We will, as a group, review our prospects while regarding our tragic loss last May 23 of our good (to be) friend, Phase IIIA.

We might be forgiven, I suspect, for venerating our still-born colleague for, though we never came to know his operational facet, many viewed Phase IIIA as one of us with a very special mission in life. In fact, those who conceived and fretted over the machinery came to view the assembly as personifying a noble philosopher who, by his passing among us, would have manifestly affected the way in which we perceive our hobby.

But the commemoration itself will focus not on the moribund but instead on the remarkable recovery and reconstitution we have accomplished. Beginning on Friday evening (0100 UTC Saturday) on the usual net frequency of 3850 kHz, many AMSAT leaders will survey the horizon from where they stand "one year after the fall." There is no time limit for the Friday activity and all who wish to participate will be welcome. On Sunday, an abbreviated commemoration will be folded into the usual 20-meter (14282 kHz at 1800 UTC) and 15-meter (21280 kHz at 1900 UTC) International Nets.

Special QSL cards will be issued to all who check in to any of these three sessions. This will serve to introduce the new QSL card to the world. All are invited.

?? This Week's Riddle ??

What's blue, ten feet tall, shaped like the great pyramid of Giza and wants to touch your body? Wrong! It's a pile of AMSAT's "Hams In Space" T-shirts. Get yours from HQ. Write or call Martha or save the call and send $10 donation to P.O. Box 27, Washington, D.C. 20044. Specify small, medium, large or extra large. Hurry! Pyramid power is most potent in summer.

New Voices Heard on Nets

AMSAT Headquarters has announced the appointment of two new bulletin stations for the 20- and 15-meter International nets on Sundays. The new stations are W8GQW, Wray Dudley of Troy, Ohio and KEØT, Bob Nickels of Kimball, Nebraska, *ASR's* associate editor. Both Wray and Bob have top-notch stations which will be heard well throughout the coverage zones.

The appointment of these two additional stations marks the continuation of an extended, comprehensive staffing program to alleviate specific organizational sensitivities. The objective is to make the overall structure more tolerant of contingencies which, until now, have impacted services such as the nets. Combined with the strengthening of the Area Coordinator Team, AMSAT Management aims to have a well staffed organization in place to respond to the expected pressures of new members joining concurrent with Phase IIIB's launch.

KEØT will be handling the Sunday nets on the second Sunday of each month while W8GQW will be pulling the third Sunday duty. The present net station, WA2LQQ will do the first Sunday tour. Additional volunteers are sought for the fourth and occasional fifth Sunday in the month. Contact WA2LQQ.

A.C. List Grows Again

Bearing fruit as one would expect of a well-sown garden, K1HTV's campaign to rejuvenate the AMSAT Area Coordinator Team made more progress this week with the appointment of two new coordinators. They are: Dick Beerman, N4EL, for Alabama and Dick Bigelow, WD5CTQ, for South Texas. Congratulations to the new teammates. Who else would like to join the team? In the U.S. or Canada call or write K1HTV, AMSAT Vice President for Operations. Elsewhere, contact your national coordinator. If there is none or you don't know who he is, contact AMSAT at P.O. Box 27, Washington, D.C. 20044.

The "all in a day's work" Department

Processing callsign badge orders gets to be pretty routine. Occasionally there is something to break the monotony. Like last week for instance. As I was typing out the mailing label I saw the addressee was a resident of a nudist colony. That brought a grin to my face. But when I tried to figure out where he would pin the darn thing....

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